

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask once again, what more must happen in order for the international community to take deliberative, decisive action against the ruthless military dictatorship in Burma? Why would any country befriend this savage dictatorship that has no qualms about engaging in slave labor, systematic rape of women, destruction of villages, and murder of many innocent civilians?

The U.N. Security Council should act, not only because of the regional security problems related to Burma, but also because of the regime's horrific human rights abuses. The abuses have caused a humanitarian disaster as hundreds of thousands of people have fled across Burma's borders in almost every direction.

The military's brutal campaigns have created between 600,000 and 1 million internally displaced people, innocent men, women and children who live hiding in the jungles of Burma as they fear further attacks.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S., the U.N. Security Council, the international community should act now to stop the atrocities. Oppose the blockage of humanitarian aid, bring an end to the suffering of the people of Burma, and address the regional security problems from this regime.

HONORING SIEGFRIED AND ROY

(Mr. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), in expressing my thoughts and prayers to our fellow Las Vegas, Roy Horn of Siegfried and Roy.

As many of you know, Roy Horn was seriously injured on October 3, 2003, when he was hurt on stage by one of his star tigers, Montecore. Since then Roy has been in critical condition, and I wish him quick and speedy recovery.

It was 30 years ago when Siegfried and Roy first debuted in Las Vegas. At that time it was only a dream for Las Vegas to be the entertainment capital of the world as it is today. Through hard work and perseverance, Siegfried and Roy became one of Las Vegas' top-selling shows, having performed in front of roughly 40 million people.

Recently named Magicians of the Century, Siegfried and Roy personify Las Vegas. Their shows are unlike anything Las Vegas has ever seen, a theatrical production, symbolic of a grandiose and flamboyant style of entertainment for which Las Vegas has become famous. Their success has been Las Vegas' success as well. Today, when people think Las Vegas, they think Siegfried and Roy. But when I think of Siegfried and Roy, I think of two men who came to this country with a dream and succeeded even beyond their wildest expectations.

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As they once said, it is better to be an ordinary guy living an extraordinary life, than any other way. I would like to take a moment to applaud them for their conservation but also to give them our prayers and thoughts at this time.

GROWING FRUSTRATION WITH MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT NEGOTIATIONS

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my growing frustration with the ongoing negotiations to create a Medicare prescription drug benefit. This could be the largest expansion of this program since the inception almost 40 years ago. Changes to this program will affect every senior in every District.

Unfortunately, leaders of the conference committee only seem interested in pushing their own agenda. They are not listening to Members on this side of the aisle, and they are not listening to the growing numbers of senior citizens.

We have to find out from media reports that our colleagues are considering provisions to increase premiums, means test the program and ultimately privatize Medicare. If these media reports are to be believed, then the proposed benefit is even worse than what initially passed this House floor by one vote.

Combined costs of the premiums, deductibles and copays amount to \$1,300 per senior, just for \$2,000 worth of coverage. That means that the government pays \$700 and our seniors pay \$1,300, almost twice as much.

Mr. Speaker, my seniors do not like the sounds of any of these proposals. They are already paying 22 percent of their out-of-pocket costs on health care, and even though they may vote for a Democratic Member of Congress, they still deserve to have their voices heard.

I urge my conferees to listen to their House and Senate colleagues and do a bipartisan bill that provides seniors with the relief they need.

CONGRATULATIONS GOVERNORS-ELECT HALEY BARBOUR AND ERNIE FLETCHER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Governor-elect Ernie Fletcher, our colleague from Kentucky, on his historic election yesterday as the first Republican-elected Governor in the Commonwealth in 32 years. I was honored to spend the last 4 days campaigning door-to-door

for the Fletcher team, and I discovered firsthand our colleague and his wife Glenna are greatly admired for their integrity and competence.

Yesterday was also a big day in Mississippi with the election of Haley Barbour, who unseated a sitting Democratic Governor. As the RNC chairman, Governor-elect Barbour has proven he can make a difference. The Republican revolution inspired by Ronald Reagan for limited government and expanded freedom continues to consolidate throughout the South, building on last year's success in South Carolina with Mark Sanford, Georgia with Sonny Perdue and Alabama with Bob Riley.

The past month's Republican gubernatorial victories begun by Republican Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger of California underscores the confidence by the American people in President Bush's economic policies reflected by this 7.2 percent gross domestic product increase and by support of the President's serious resolve to win the war on terror to protect the American people at home.

At this time, in conclusion, God bless our troops.

A REAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, just as the seniors in Texas and all across the country are concerned about prescription drug coverage and the action of the conferees, so are those in Illinois. I met with a group of seniors on Saturday, and they are waiting in anticipation of a real plan, a real program, and they are saying, Mr. Speaker, that they do not want a watered-down version. They do not want a pig in a poke. They want something that is real, meaningful.

Please conferees, listen to the seniors. Let us come up with a real prescription drug plan.

SIGNING OF THE PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank President Bush who will be signing the Partial Birth Abortion Ban later today. By making the Partial Birth Abortion Ban law, Congress and President Bush have listened to the strong voices of our constituents who want to protect the health of women and fight for the sanctity of life.

The Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 bans the procedure in which a living fetus is partially delivered before the fetus is killed and delivery is completed. This law will have the power to stop partial birth abortion

and prosecute the doctors who continue to practice this horrific procedure. Furthermore, it will give the parents of minors and husbands the right to bring civil actions against said doctors.

As a father of three daughters and a member of the medical community, I am proud to have played a part in the preservation of women's health and the sacredness of life.

CONTEMPLATE THE WAR DEAD

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to come into this House and forget what is going on out in the world, but on Friday when I got back to my office, I received a phone call from one of my constituents who had received a notification on Sunday that her son was killed in Iraq. Talking to this woman and understanding how she had felt, she had marched against the war, but her son believed that he was doing the right thing for this country. He believed that what he was doing was important, even though his parents thought that the war was not the right thing to be doing.

I think that as we go forward with a President who refuses to look at how to change the situation over there, we risk more and more of these deaths. We had them on Sunday. We had them on Monday, and I think we ought to take a moment to be silent and contemplate the war dead.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as our military men and women continue to do a great job to keep us safe and secure, heated debate has broken out about whether veterans should receive both disability pay and retirement pay. This issue is called concurrent receipt.

Right now, when a veteran retires, military pension benefits from the Department of Defense are reduced dollar for dollar by the amount of disability benefits received from the Veterans Affairs Department. Republicans have proposed commonsense solutions that will send more disability money to our veterans.

Under the plan, disabled veterans will see more retirement money, and benefits will now be available to Reservists and Guardsmen injured in service. This is a solution that is fair, responsible, and honors our Nation's disabled veterans.

I encourage all veterans to contact their lawmakers and urge them to support this important legislation and pass it by the end of the year.

CRACKDOWN IN BURMA

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask all freedom-loving people to pay attention to the latest crackdown in Burma by that country's brutal military regime.

A few days ago, the military again reminded us why Burma has one of the most despicable regimes in the world, by cruelly cracking down on a demonstration by Buddhist monks. Over 900 monks took to the streets, calling for freedom and democracy. These people, who are dedicated to peace themselves, found themselves the targets of not only water guns but of brutal beatings. One of them was killed. Four have been put in intensive care.

It is time for the people of Burma to join the Buddhist monks and to rise up against their tyrants. It is time for the people in the Burmese Army to rise up and turn their guns against the military regime that has destroyed freedom in their country and led their country into such deprivation and poverty, the regime that is stealing from their own people and giving their country to the Communist Chinese, and it is up to us, the United States, to back up the freedom-loving people of Burma.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

AUTHORIZATION OF SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL JUSTICES AND JUDGES

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3349) to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2004.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3349

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL JUSTICES AND JUDGES.

Pursuant to section 140 of Public Law 97-92, Justices and judges of the United States are authorized during fiscal year 2004 to receive a salary adjustment in accordance with section 461 of title 28, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3349, the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, by way of background, Congress enacted the Executive Salary Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act in 1975 which was intended to give judges, Members of Congress and high-ranking executive branch officials automatic COLAs accorded other Federal employees unless rejected by Congress. In 1981, Congress amended the statute by enacting section 140 of Public Law 97-92, which requires a specific congressional authorization to grant judges a COLA.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us is based on the template set forth in H.R. 16, now Public Law 108-6, which the House passed back in January and the President signed in February. H.R. 16 satisfied the section 140 requirement and thereby enabled judges to receive a COLA for this past fiscal year. H.R. 3349 accomplishes the same purpose for fiscal year 2004.

One final point, Mr. Speaker. The House will recall that Congress passed the Ethics Reform Act in 1989 to address the issue of Federal public service compensation. The mechanism for raising judicial salaries under the Act is premised on congressional action following a Presidential recommendation. A key feature of the 1989 law, however, was, and still is, that certain Federal judicial salaries are effectively linked to those of Senators and House Members as set forth in a statutory pay schedule for executive officials. In other words, the Federal judges cannot receive a pay raise unless Congress is willing to increase its own compensation along with that of various executive branch officials.

I do not believe that Congress should deviate from this construct by raising the salaries of life-tenured judges by nearly \$25,000, as the Senate version of the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill would do. Along with many of our colleagues and other interested parties, I am not convinced that Federal judges work harder or have greater responsibility than Members of Congress or executive branch officials.

I believe in fairness, Mr. Speaker, and that is why I introduced H.R. 3349, to ensure that Federal judges receive a COLA when other civil servants, including Members of Congress, receive theirs. I otherwise maintain that neither Congress nor the third branch is entitled to a massive pay raise at this point, and I would urge the House appropriators to reject any attempt to